

## Dealing With Adversity James 1:2-4

Ever experienced the agony of defeat? Wide World of Sports  
Real life: filled w/tragic loss of life; failed business; broken hearts.  
Consider how David survived the many setbacks & defeats of his life.

### David Experienced Tremendous Success

1Samuel 16:11-13 – anointed as king of Israel. Small lad from Jesse.

1Samuel 17:34-36 – prosperous shepherd.

1Samuel 18:7 – defeated Goliath.

### Gut-Wrenching Defeat/Adversity Also Came His Way

Psalms 59:1,3,6 – Saul sought to kill him.

1Chronicles 17:4; 28:3 – God refused to allow him to build temple.

2Samuel 11 & 12 – Sin w/Bathsheba, murdered Uriah, lost child

2Samuel 15-18 – overthrown by Absalom, regained throne but son killed.

2Samuel 20 – dealt w/rebellion led by Sheba.

2Samuel 24:15 – caused death of 70K of his own citizens by numbering army

Suffered setbacks involving gross immorality; heart breaking family tragedies; colossal failures as a leader in governing Israel.

### How did David Survive?

David DID survive!

1Kings 1:29 *"As the Lord lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress..."*

Even the great victories....were by God's power.

David made mistakes just like we do – yet he survived. We can too!

### Psalm 7:1-2 – Looked upward – to God.

Constant focus on God steadied him from the constant blows of life.

1Chronicles 29:10-13, 17 – note at the end of life: see any bitterness?

In defeat – not blame God – looked to God for help/guidance/strength.

### Psalm 7:3-5 – Looked inward – examined himself.

Searched his heart for sin. (not saying all adversity caused by sin)

Self-examination can lead to asking: What did this defeat tell me about my weaknesses? Can lead one to look for ways to improve himself.

Note: didn't have these ideas when looking at himself:

nothing ever goes right for me; I'll never be happy again; I don't have any abilities at all; took an honest approach to himself.

### 2Samuel 12:19-23 – He looked forward – to the future.

Did not constantly look back on things he could not change.

Some: mire up in self pity and negativism.

Sometimes get caught up in thinking: Life should treat me fairly.

If I am a good person nothing tragic should ever happen to me.

I should have known better to do this/that.

What "should be" rarely is "what will be."

Must accept that this world is cursed w/sin & inhabited by imperfect people who sometimes intentionally cruel.

David looked forward when defeat came searched for ways to use defeat as opportunities for doing something for God he had not planned.

1Samuel 27:8 – hunted by Saul – defeated Israel's enemies to prepare

1Chronicles 22:15 – could not build temple – gathered all the pieces.

2Samuel 24:25 – pestilence – made altar for God.

In face of defeat we should turn to God

Philippians 1:12-20 – Paul made lemonade out of lemons.

### Adversity Can Actually Accomplish a Lot in Our Life

2Corinthians 12:7-10 – can humble us. We begin to realize that we:

Not perfect; make mistakes; can be defeated; should trust in God & not in ourselves.

James 1:2-4 – lead us toward greater spiritual maturity.

Must keep in mind that the trial will make us stronger even though we don't like it at the time

2Corinthians 1:3-7 – equips us to comfort others.

Helps us be there for someone in their greatest time of need.

**During adversity the child of God must learn to look to Jesus.**

Hebrews 4:14-16

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